

Leland Middle School

927 Old Fayetteville Road  
Leland, NC 28451



10/17/2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Leland Middle School, our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 and 8 Science, NC Math 1.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Leland Middle School has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

Leland Middle School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of *Did Not Meet* for the 2021–2022 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. At LMS we provide targeted interventions in Math and Reading via our Math 180, Lexia and Enrichment time during our W.I.N. or What I Need period. We also utilize our time efficiently and productively via our content PLC planning that is data driven based on pre and post testing for each unit taught to identify student growth and areas of need. LMS has also employed school tutors via Communities in Schools and by utilizing our Title 1 allotment to employ two more Reading and Math tutors. Next, we are utilizing our MTSS committee to its fullest potential by reviewing supports in place in all 3 tiers to ensure all supports are reaching our students and being implemented with fidelity. Lastly, we are designated as a T.S.I. or Targeted Support and Improvement by the State Board of Education. This simply means that we have one or more subgroups that are low-performing. Leland Middle School's qualifying group is students with disabilities or SWD.

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their next meeting, October 18, 2022, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review on the Leland Middle School website by visiting <https://www.bcswan.net/LMS>.

One of our top priorities for 2022–2023 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:



- Enrichment during W.I.N.: Student Government Association, Debate, Creative Writing class, Student Leadership and Fairness Committee, STEM, Guitar, Chorus, Adaptive Art and PE, Science Olympiad and more.
- 100 Black Men – Success Mentoring Program for black males with interests to attend college
- SEL programming provided by our counselors and targeted school-wide
- School-wide fundraisers
- We are celebrating the accomplishments of all stakeholders this school year with our newly established Celebration Committee
- Positive Behavior and Intervention Support and rewards system
- Staff fellowship activities
- Parent, Teacher, Student Organization – they are involved in so much to support our students and staff and keep us pumped up to teach and learn
- Parental involvement activities such as Arts Showcase night, Enrichment Showcase night,
- School dances and carnivals
- School Spirit Weeks
- Weekly messages from the principal

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Leland Middle School than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact me, Shawn Black, at 910-371-3030.

Sincerely,

Shawn C. Black, Principal  
Leland Middle School  
[sblack@bcswan.net](mailto:sblack@bcswan.net)  
#WeCanAndWillGrow/TigerNation